

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 21, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-16 and 22 are canceled. Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 17-21 and 23-32 are pending in this application, with claims 17 and 27 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to include priority data.

Independent claims 17 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,560,939 (Nakagawa). The dependent claims are rejected as obvious over Nakagawa and various other references as listed in the Office Action.

The present invention relates to a mold in which two plates 2, 2' are movable from an open to a closed position by a threaded screw assembly. The opposing faces of the plates include a first negative form 4. An insert 5 is connected to a separate screw drive assembly 7 and includes a second negative form 4' of the mold. The two plates 2, 2' and the insert 5 define a cavity 16 in which a molding composition is inserted. After insertion of the molding composition into the cavity, the insert 5 is moved by the separate screw drive assembly to compress the molding composition during molding (see page 7, line 34 to page 8, line 2).

Independent claim 17 has been amended so that each of the independent claims 17 and 27 recite that the

Nakagawa discloses a mold assembly having a top mold 1 and a bottom mold 2 (see Figs. 1 and 2) parted along a parting line PL. Inserts 11, 12 are arranged in insert coupling portions 13, 14 in the top mold 1 and bottom mold 2. The bottom mold 1 is stationary and the top mold 2 is movable (see col. 4, lines 21-25). The insert 11 is movable by a hydraulic cylinder 19 and piston 20 (see col. 4, lines 45-65). However, Nakagawa teaches that the hydraulic cylinder 19 is used for exchanging insert 11 (see col. 5, lines 2-8). Accordingly, Nakagawa fails to teach that the hydraulic cylinder 19 is used during the molding process. Rather, Nakagawa only teaches that it is used for exchange of the inserts for different sizes (see col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 52-57).

In col. 9, lines 60-65, Nakagawa describes that the insert 11 applied pressure to the molten resin. However, Nakagawa specifically states that it is the clamping cylinder that provides the force, not the cylinder 19 used for exchanging the insert. Nakagawa defines the clamping cylinder as the device which acts on the top mold 1 (see col. 4, lines 29-31).

Furthermore, Nakagawa discloses that each of the inserts 11, 12 has a hydraulic cylinder 19, 20. Accordingly, Nakagawa fails to disclose the first negative form arranged on the opposing end faces of the plates of the mold, as recited in independent claims 17 and 27.

In view of the above remarks, Nakagawa fails to disclose teach or suggest that a second threaded screw drive is used to position the second negative form during molding to compress the molding composition in the cavity, as expressly recited in amended independent claim 17 and independent claim 27 already includes such a limitation.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 22, 2003